



GOP, Dems seek political boost from student loan debt plan



President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt forgiveness in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, in Washington. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona listens at right.

Associated Press

By MEG KENNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — To Democrats championing the White House's student loan forgiveness plan, it was the long-awaited delivery of one of President Joe Biden's campaign promises.

To Republicans — and even some in the president's own party — it was an ill-advised move that was unfair to those who had diligently paid back their loans or decided not to go to college.

In the student debt relief plan, both parties see an opportunity to boost their own political message ahead of the critical November midterm elections. While Democrats contended that the loan forgiveness would provide a lifeline for struggling working-class families, Republicans charged that it's a giveaway to the "elites."

For the midterms, the elitist rhetoric tactic

"plays right in line with the GOP's current brand of grievance and victimization politics," conservative strategist Chip Felkel said, "giving them another rallying point to fire up their base and maybe attract some like-minded independents who see this action as 'unfair.'"

Both the White House and some of Biden's top allies argued that it was instead Republicans who were focused on the elite and that the potential beneficiaries of the student loan debt relief include more than just the wealthy.

"Who paid the piper?" asked U.S. House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, one of Biden's top congressional allies, pointing to Republican-passed tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations in 2017 under the Trump administration as the real iniquity.

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**Renee Servello:
"If you go on vacation
with me, you might end
up in my book!"**



**Mary Joan Foundation:
"Right now we need
a lot of help from the
community"**



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

MONDAY
Angela Flores
Violinist
6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY
Jean Paul
Saxophonist
6:30pm-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
Eddie Kroon
Singer
6:30pm-8:30pm

THURSDAY
Marrybell Maduro
Singer
6:30pm-8:30pm

FRIDAY
Ricky Thomas
Guitarist
7:00pm-9:00pm

SATURDAY
Angela Flores
Violinist
6:30pm-8:30pm

KARAOKE
Happy Hour
9:00pm-11:00pm

SUNDAY
Marrybell Maduro
Singer
6:30pm-8:30pm

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GOP, Dems seek political boost from student loan debt plan

Continued from Front

"I think a lot of low-income people that we are trying to help today, those families paid for that tax cut while rich people and big corporations got off tax-free. ... This is an attempt on the part of this administration to once again help working families."

Biden's plan will erase \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those with incomes below \$125,000 a year, or households that earn less than \$250,000. It will also cancel an additional \$10,000 for those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college, and it will pause federal student loan repayments. The rhetoric from both parties over the student debt loan relief also likely reflects the education levels of their core constituencies, though plenty of people who attended college classes and took out student loans did not end up graduating from college. Forty-four percent of Biden voters in the 2020 presidential election had college degrees, compared with 34% of Trump voters, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive survey of the electorate. Fifty-six percent of Biden voters did not have a college degree, compared with 66% of Trump voters.

Initially hesitant to endorse broad cancellation of student loan debt, Biden gradually embraced



Domestic Policy Adviser Susan Rice speaks during a briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, on the newly announced student loan forgiveness plan.

Associated Press

deeper tactics to alleviate the burden during the 2020 campaign, even expressing support for some proposals from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who made broad-based student loan debt cancellation a hallmark of her own bid.

This week, Warren applauded Biden's plan, saying she would "keep pushing for more because I think it's the right thing to do" but noting the significance of "what it means for the president of the United States to touch so many hard-working middle-class families so directly." Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who also campaigned in 2020 to "cancel all student debt," called the plan "an important step forward" but said "we've got to do more."

Speaking at a White House briefing Friday, deputy director of the National Economic Council Bharat Ram-

amurti said student loan forgiveness would help "teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, members of the military and more."

Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, facing off in a U.S. Senate battle in Ohio against Republican JD Vance, criticized Biden's order as unnecessary for some people and unfair to others. Saying he's paying off his family's own loans, Ryan said that "waiving debt for those already on a trajectory to financial security sends the wrong message to the millions of Ohioans without a degree working just as hard to make ends meet."

Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet, in a tough reelection of his own, said the administration should have "proposed a way to pay for this plan," adding that "one-time debt cancellation does not solve the underlying problem."

Republicans, meanwhile,

focused on the higher-end income bracket on Biden's student loan plan, excoriating it as a boon for the wealthy. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called the plan "student loan socialism" that is "astonishingly unfair." He said inflation is "crushing working families" and decried Biden's proposed fix "to give away even more government money to elites with higher salaries."

Mike Berg, spokesperson for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said, "Democrats know robbing middle-class taxpayers to give a bailout to Harvard Law graduates is an indefensible policy."

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis — campaigning for his reelection this year, in addition to laying the groundwork for a possible 2024 presidential challenge to Biden — posted on his social media accounts that "It's unfair to force a truck driver to pay a loan for someone that got a PhD in gender studies."

The contention that recipients of the relief plan were gender studies majors was a popular refrain among Republicans, though only a small number of students nationwide study in that field.

Largely driven by comments from conservative pundits and politicians including DeSantis and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, Facebook and Instagram posts mentioning the term

"gender studies" received more than half a million mentions, comments and likes in the 48 hours after Biden's announcement, according to data from social media insights tool Crowd-Tangle.

The posts highlight how conservatives plan to campaign off potential frustration from millions of blue-collar workers who skipped college and might not see a benefit from Biden's student loan debt relief order. Some of the critical Republicans, including DeSantis, hold multiple Ivy League degrees.

Aneesa McMillan, deputy executive director of Priorities USA, a Democratic super PAC, said student loan forgiveness would help drive support for Democrats in the midterms.

"This is one of the reasons we saw historic turnout for Joe Biden," McMillan said. "And he has consistently delivered on those promises that he made to voters." Felkel, though, doubted the order's ultimate weight for Biden's party, given Democrats' challenges to satisfy internal factions.

"While progressives on the left have been pushing this for a while, I don't think this will give them a boost in the November elections like they might hope," he said. "Those pushing were voting for Democrats already. Attempts to satisfy the progressives will hurt some Democrats in tough races." □



A Citibank office in New York is shown in this Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

**By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —** Citigroup

will wind down its consumer banking and commercial lending operations in Rus-

With no buyers, Citigroup to wind down operations in Russia

sia after months of looking for a buyer with Russia increasingly isolated from the Western financial world. Citigroup said in spring 2021 that it planned to exit Russia, long before it invaded Ukraine and triggered massive sanctions. The invasion has made the sale increasingly difficult.

While no major U.S. bank had a substantial presence in Russia, Citigroup was among the largest. The company said it still

had \$8.4 billion in exposure to Russian assets, which is down from \$9.8 billion at the end of 2021, with roughly 2,300 employees in the country.

"We have explored multiple strategic options to sell these businesses over the past several months," Titi Cole, CEO of Citi's Legacy Franchises division, said in a prepared statement Thursday. It's clear that the wind-down path makes the most sense given the many

complicating factors in the environment."

Citi said it still wants to sell its commercial and consumer banking franchises. Due to sanctions, however, Russia is effectively cut off from Western banks in Europe and the U.S.

The wind down will take approximately 18 months as the bank closes branches and accounts, and ends operations with local vendors in the region, the bank said. □

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EPA to designate 'forever chemicals' as hazardous substances

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency moved Friday to designate two "forever chemicals" used in cookware, carpets and firefighting foams as hazardous substances, a step that would clear the way for quicker cleanup of the toxic compounds, which have been linked to cancer and other health problems.

Designation as a hazardous substance under the so-called Superfund law doesn't ban the chemicals. But it requires that releases of PFOA and PFOS into soil or water be reported to federal, state or tribal officials if they meet or exceed certain levels. The EPA could then require cleanups to protect public health and recover cleanup costs.

PFOA and PFOS have been voluntarily phased out by U.S. manufacturers but are

still in limited use and remain in the environment because they do not degrade over time. The compounds are part of a larger cluster of "forever chemicals" known as PFAS that have been used in consumer products and industry since the 1940s. The term is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which have been used in nonstick frying pans, water-repellent sports gear, stain-resistant rugs, cosmetics and countless other consumer products.

The chemicals can accumulate and persist in the human body for long periods of time, and evidence from animal and human studies indicates that exposure to PFOA or PFOS may lead to cancer or other health problems.

"Communities have suffered far too long from exposure to these forever chemicals," EPA Adminis-

trator Michael Regan said in a statement Friday. "The action announced today will improve transparency and advance EPA's aggressive efforts to confront this pollution."

Under the proposed rule, "EPA will both help protect communities from PFAS pollution and seek to hold polluters accountable for their actions," Regan said. The rule is expected to become final next year.

The Superfund law allows the EPA to clean up contaminated sites and forces parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work. When no responsible party can be identified, Superfund gives EPA money and authority to clean up contaminated sites.

The EPA's action follows a recent report by the National Academies of Sci-



Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan speaks at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro, N.C., April 14, 2022.

Associated Press

ence that calls PFAS a serious public health threat in the U.S. and worldwide. It comes after an EPA announcement in June that PFOA and PFOS are more dangerous than previously thought and pose health risks even at levels so low they cannot currently be detected.

The agency issued non-

binding health advisories that set health risk thresholds for PFOA and PFOS to near zero, replacing 2016 guidelines that had set them at 70 parts per trillion. The chemicals are found in products including cardboard packaging, carpets and firefighting foam and increasingly found in drinking water. □



Attorney General Merrick Garland looks at federal prosecutor Kevin Chambers, right, after appointing him to be the Justice Department's chief pandemic fraud prosecutor, during a meeting of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Fraud Enforcement Task Force at the Justice Department, March 10, 2022 in Washington.

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Secret Service said Fri-

day that it has recovered \$286 million in fraudulently obtained pandemic loans and is returning the money

Secret Service recovers \$286M in stolen pandemic loans

to the Small Business Administration.

The Secret Service said an investigation initiated by its Orlando office found that alleged conspirators submitted Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications by using fake or stolen employment and personal information and used an online bank, Green Dot, to conceal and move their criminal proceeds.

The agency worked with Green Dot to identify roughly 15,000 accounts

and seize \$286 million connected to the accounts.

"This forfeiture effort and those to come are a direct and necessary response to the unprecedented size and scope of pandemic relief fraud," said Kevin Chambers, director for COVID-19 fraud enforcement at the Justice Department. Billions have been fraudulently claimed through various pandemic relief programs — including Paycheck Protection Program loans, unemployment insur-

ance and others that were rolled out in the midst of the worldwide pandemic that shutdown global economies for months.

In March, the Government Accountability Office reported that while agencies were able to distribute COVID-19 relief funds quickly, "the tradeoff was that they did not have systems in place to prevent and identify payment errors and fraud" due in part to "financial management weaknesses." □

Missouri to ban sexual images in school library books

By SUMMER BALLENTINE

The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A new Missouri law outlawing books with sexually explicit images from school libraries is about to take effect.

Starting Sunday, it will be a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail or a \$2,000 fine for librarians and other educators to give students access to such material.

The law does not apply to written descriptions of sex or sexual acts; only photos, drawings, videos and other visual depictions are prohibited.

The law defined explicit sexual material as images "showing human masturbation, deviate sexual intercourse," "sexual intercourse, direct physical stimulation of genitals, sadomasochistic abuse," or showing human genitals.

There are exceptions for anatomy, biology, sex education, art and other images considered educational. Melissa Corey, the president of the Missouri Association of School Librarians, said the law likely will only apply to certain comic books and graphic novels, which are longer comic books.

Republican state Sen. Rick Brattin spearheaded the legislation by tacking it onto another bill aimed at protecting sexual assault



Rep. Rick Brattin, R-Harrisonville, debates points of the legislation in Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 14, 2016.

victims' rights. He initially proposed a more expansive ban that would have prohibited written descriptions of sexual acts, but that was scaled back during closed-door negotiations. "When you go read the definition of what is outlawed — literal sex acts, graphic human masturbation — these are things that are within the definition, and people are finding this controversial that it should be before kids," Brattin said. "I'm really blown away by how controversial this has

turned." Democratic state Sen. Barbara Washington said Democrats tried to limit the scope of the law to save books such as Nobel laureate Toni Morrison's debut novel "The Bluest Eye," which is not banned under the new law.

"We have works of art and books of literature that may have things that may be offensive to some, but taken as a whole would not necessarily be offensive," Washington said.

Brattin cited "Fun Home:

"A Family Tragicomic" as a book he wants to see removed from schools under the new law. The graphic memoir is about author Alison Bechdel's fraught relationship with her late father and includes drawn depictions of masturbation and oral sex.

Corey said it's unclear which books, if any, will be pulled from Missouri school libraries. Those decisions are made at the school district level, and she said schools have policies that outline the formal process

Associated Press

for reviewing which books students can access.

Corey said the association advised librarians to work with local school boards to best follow the law, particularly the exceptions for art and biology.

"It ultimately is up to how the school board is going to interpret the bill upon legal counsel," she said.

Librarians follow district-specific policies in deciding which books to offer Missouri students, Corey said. She said books are approved for different grade levels based on what educators deem is age-appropriate, meaning high school students and kindergarteners do not have access to the same literature. Corey said Missouri librarians want representation in literature and for students "to see themselves reflected in books."

She cautioned against going too far in limiting what material students can access.

"When you are looking at challenging or reviewing a book it really becomes a very slippery slope," Corey said. "That is something that we really need to think about."

The issue likely will resurface in the upcoming legislative session, which begins in January. Brattin said written descriptions of sexual acts are some Republicans' next target. □



In this Jan. 26, 2015 file photo, a supporter of open carry gun laws, wears a pistol as he prepares for a rally in support of open carry gun laws at the Capitol, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge has struck down one of Texas' few remaining firearm restrictions, finding a law that barred adults

under the age of 21 from carrying a handgun was unconstitutional.

Federal judge strikes down Texas handgun age restriction

20-year-olds from carrying a handgun outside the home violates the Second Amendment right to bear arms and cannot be enforced. He stayed the ruling from taking effect for 30 days.

The decision came in a case brought last year by a gun rights advocacy group and a man and woman who argued they should be able to carry handguns for protection despite being under 21. They sued five months after Texas removed one of its last major gun restrictions, al-

lowing people over 21 to carry handguns without a license, background check or training.

Pittman, an appointee of President Donald Trump, ruled in favor of the pair and the Firearms Policy Coalition Inc. based on "the Second Amendment's text, as informed by Founding-Era history and tradition."

The decision follows a major expansion of gun rights by the U.S. Supreme Court. After a series of mass shootings, the high court ruled in June that Americans have a right to carry firearms in

public for self-defense. Cody Wisniewski, a lawyer with the Firearms Policy Coalition, said Pittman's decision "is a significant victory for the rights of young adults in Texas and demonstrates for the rest of the nation that similar bans cannot withstand constitutional challenges grounded in history." A spokeswoman for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican whose office defended the law in court, did not immediately respond to questions, including whether the state will appeal. □

Official: 6 of 43 missing Mexican students given to army

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Six of the 43 Mexican students abducted and disappeared in 2014, were allegedly kept alive in a warehouse for days then turned over to the commander of the local army base who ordered their killings, the Mexican government official leading the Truth Commission said Friday.

Interior Undersecretary Alejandro Encinas made the revelation with little fanfare during a lengthy defense of the commission's report first released a week earlier. At that time, despite declaring the disappearances a "state crime" and saying that the army watched it happen without intervening, Encinas made no mention of six students being turned over to Col. José Rodríguez Pérez.

On Friday, Encinas emphasized that authorities were closely monitoring the students from the radical teachers' college at Ayotzinapa from the time they left their campus through



A bicyclist pedals past a monument dedicated to the 2014 disappearances of 43 students from a Guerrero state radical teacher college, in Mexico City, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

their abduction by local police in the town of Iguala that night. A soldier who had infiltrated the school was among the abducted students and Encinas asserted that the army had not followed its own proto-

cols to try to rescue him. "There is also information corroborated with emergency 089 telephone calls where allegedly six of the 43 disappeared students were held during several days and alive in what they

call the old warehouse and from there were turned over to the colonel," Encinas said. "Allegedly the six students were alive for as many as four days after the events and were killed and disappeared on orders of

the colonel, allegedly the then Col. José Rodríguez Pérez."

The defense department did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the allegations Friday.

The truth commission report notes that the army registered an anonymous emergency call on Sept. 30, 2014, four days after the students' abduction. The caller said the students were being held in a large concrete warehouse in a location described as "Pueblo Viejo." The caller proceeded to describe the location. That entry was followed by several pages of redacted material, but that section of the report concluded with the following: "As can be seen, obvious collusion existed between agents of the Mexican state with the criminal group Guerreros Unidos that tolerated, allowed and participated in events of violence and disappearance of the students, as well as the government's attempt to hide the truth about the events." □

Australian police seize record 2 tons of methamphetamine

SYDNEY (AP) — Authorities have found 1.8 metric tons (2 U.S. tons) of methamphetamine hidden in marble tiles shipped from the Middle East to Sydney in what police describe as the largest-ever seizure of the illicit drug in Australia.



In this photo released on Aug. 26, 2022, by the New South Wales Police Force marble tiles are stored in a facility in Sydney, Australia.

Associated Press

Three men were arrested after 748 kilograms (1,649 pounds) of the drug were found early this month hidden in 24 containers that arrived at Port Botany, officials said on Friday. Another 1,060 kilograms (2,337 pounds) of meth

were found in 19 containers that arrived at the same port last week. The drugs were hidden in the same method and were all shipped from the United Arab Emirates. Police estimate the meth's street value at 1.6 billion Australian dollars (\$1.1 billion), which reflects the higher prices that Australians pay for illicit drugs than users do in many comparable countries.

Police Detective Chief Supt. John Watson described the quantity of meth as "staggering." "This seizure will be felt for weeks to come by many high-, mid- and lower-level suppliers," Watson said.

No further arrests have been made since last week's seizure. Investigators have turned their attention to identifying the overseas suppliers. □

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U.N. expert offers plan for improving human rights in Cambodia

By SOPHENG CHEANG

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

(AP) — The United Nations expert on human rights in Cambodia proposed on Friday a 10-point plan to improve rights in the Southeast Asian nation, describing it as a country with a bright future but some severe challenges.

U.N. Special Rapporteur Vittit Muntarbhorn spoke in the capital, Phnom Penh, at the end of an 11-day visit, his first in his official capacity. He said he met with government officials and members of civil society, U.N. agencies and concerned communities.

Vittit said Cambodia, which in the 1990s began recovering from many years of war and brutal misrule by the communist Khmer Rouge, had achieved substantial progress in human rights, including ratification of most major rights treaties.

"Yet Cambodia is faced with a pervasive paradox," he said in a statement. "Since 2017, when the main opposition party was disbanded unjustly by judicial order, the country has effectively been under single-party rule, with all seats of the National



U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Cambodia Vittit Muntarbhorn gives a press conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Friday, Aug. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

Assembly in the hands of that monopoly." "Despite very limited recognition of the progress and achievements Cambodia has realized, his statement remains largely biased, prejudiced, and unfounded on a number of issues," it said in a statement.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power for 37 years, combining guile and strong-arm tactics to dominate his coun-

try's politics. In late 2017, his administration cracked down on critics and political opponents in what was widely seen as clearing the way for his Cambodian People's Party to stay in power in 2018 elections. Independent media outlets were closed or cowed into submission and the Cambodian National Rescue Party, the sole credible opposition group, was dissolved by the courts for

allegedly engaging in treasonous activity.

Vittit told reporters he met with striking workers at a casino in Phnom Penh, local government officials in Sihanoukville a southern city notorious for human trafficking and related cybercrime and people displaced from their homes by land grabs. He also met with opposition party members and non-partisan critics of the government who

have faced legal harassment.

According to a U.N. statement, Vittit's recommendations include "opening up civic and political space, by suspending and reforming draconian laws, ensuring election-related personnel are separated from political parties and ending prosecution of political opposition and human rights defenders."

Other measures include "releasing all those currently in prison and dropping charges against those who are seen as adversaries by the authorities and improving the quality of law enforcers by proper selection and incentivization and distance from political authority." Vittit spoke about people from various

Asian countries who have been lured into taking jobs in Cambodia and then entrapped in virtual slavery, often forced to participate in scams targeting people over the internet.

The scam networks, which often have links to trans-national organized crime, are set up in countries with weak law enforcement, luring educated young workers with promises of high earnings. □

Lebanese submarine finds 7 bodies from April migrant sinking

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Lebanese submarine has found the

remains of at least seven migrants who drowned when their boat sank earlier this year off the coast

of Lebanon with about 30 people on board, the navy announced Friday.

The boat, carrying around 80 Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians trying to migrate by sea to Italy, went down more than 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the port of Tripoli, following a confrontation with the Lebanese navy.

Seven bodies were recovered that night, including one of a child, while 48 survivors were pulled from the Mediterranean Sea. According to navy estimates, 30 people were believed to have gone down with the boat.

Since Monday, the small, 3-person underwater craft a Pisces VI submarine has been searching for the re-

mains. The wreck was located on Wednesday, at a depth of some 450 meters (about 1,470 feet).

The circumstances of the vessel's sinking are disputed to this day. Survivors say their vessel was rammed by the Lebanese navy, while the military claims the migrants' boat collided with a navy vessel while trying to get away.

Capt. Scott Waters, who operated the craft, told reporters at a press conference in Tripoli Friday that the first body they found was outside the wreck but much of it had decayed since the sinking, with mostly bits of clothing and some bones remaining intact. He said the crew identified six more bodies inside the

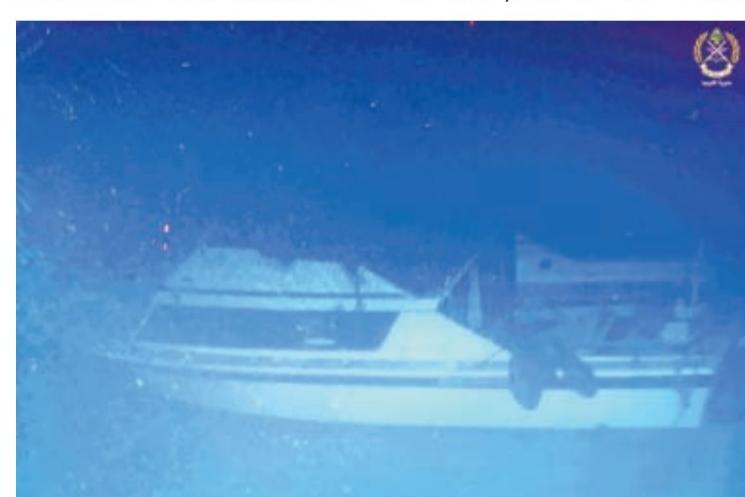
wreckage and a substantial amount of debris around the vessel. Some of the people who tried to escape the boat, he assumed, got "tangled in that debris."

"One of the very last footage and images we took," he added, was of the remains of a person, an arm around another.

"They died holding each other."

Tom Zreika, a Lebanese-Australian and the chairman of Australian charity AusRelief that helped bring the submarine to Lebanon, said the boat was a "fair degree under silt," making it difficult to retrieve it.

Zreika said what's next is for Lebanon to bring the sunken boat out but that remains a difficult task. □



In this photo released by the Lebanese Army official Twitter page, shows the boat that sank carrying about 80 Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians trying to migrate by sea to Italy, following a confrontation with the Lebanese navy, which found by Pisces VI submarine on some 459 meters (about 1,505 feet), in Tripoli, north Lebanon, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

Renee Servello:

"If you go on vacation with me, you might end up in my book!"

Renee Servello is full of life, laughter and love for Aruba. And now, she is ready to share this with the world. Her latest book, *Humor All The Way*, contains humorous stories that prove that laughter is the best medicine.

We spoke with Servello this week, during her 27th visit to the island, and she told us how it all started. "Initially we came on a package deal and we stayed at La Cabana, for two years", she says. "The second year we were at La Cabana, we were reading the newspaper and it said that the Marriott hotel was opening up the next day, it would be the first day." Because Renee and her husband Anthony are Marriott members, they dashed to the place and met Scott, the general manager overseeing the construction of the hotel, and he gave them a tour. There was an old frame of a building abandoned nearby, "and so we took Scott outside and we said 'Scott, get a timeshare over there!', and this is the timeshare that they built", she said referring to the Marriott Ocean Club.

"Through the years we've met a lot of the employees, and we're still friends with a lot of them", Renee commented. "One of them, she married a Dutchman here, they went to Holland and then we visited them in Holland. You can't get rid of us Servellos!" she said with a laugh. "We're real good friends with Annie Theo-

phile who runs room service in the hotel." The day we met, they were going out for lunch with Annie.

What makes Aruba so special for Renee is her special relationships with the people. "You can go to other islands, but the people are not that friendly. You hear everybody say that Aruba is a friendly island, but it really is. We travel a lot, and it's really friendly! This is like home for us."

Renee sees humor in everything, and probably, she will write it down. Anthony told us that their drawers at home are filled with cards on which Renee writes funny stories, which eventually resulted in her second book, *Humor All The Way*. However, she worked in retail for 30 years, "and therefore I couldn't focus on what I love", she said. "But I would write, when I was travelling for my job, on the plane, I would write down funny things I had seen, and crammed them in drawers for years. And then in 2017, I said to Anthony 'enough! I feel like writing down some of the stupid things that make me laugh', so I started writing again, and thought, this might make a book".

That went well, but her publishing company was not very good with marketing. One day, "out of the blue", a company from San Diego got in touch with her, and "they wanted to pursue my second book". They believed that the book could do better with some mar-



keting, and so she went with them a year ago.

She has been travelling the U.S. doing book signings, and her book is available in various countries in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and most recently, Colombia. "These little books are travelling, they're busy!" And now, her company Readers Magnet "is like family to me", and she calls them her "power rangers".

Whenever she takes vacations, Renee is in the habit of writing a synopsis of the adventures and happenings during the trip, no matter the length of the vacation. "Of course I embellish, I make it very funny. But there have been so many stories during the years, I can keep writing. In fact, my company wants to bring a series out of [my book]." The second book in the humor series, "Humor Never Takes A Break", is coming out next. "It just goes on and on and on!"

Renee's philosophy is that humor is the medicine for life. "In my head, that's what helps you along. I'm not Polyanna. Everyone has losses in their life. Even me, I lost my father at 4",

she says. However, she believes on focusing in the little positive, funny and uplifting moments in life. "I'm not laughing at anybody who has loss or illness, because we all have that in

our families and in our lives. However, if you can, find something to laugh about. It helps you", she added. "I think it helps your body if you can laugh and enjoy life a little bit." □



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Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

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Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**Get it ALL done at Do It Center and Super Do It Center & Groceries**

Noord – Sometimes all we need is one place where we can do all our shopping at once. Well, Do it center and Super Do it Center Groceries has it all. This is the largest, local owned Do it Center in the Caribbean and best of all a 100% locally owned family business.

How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This aloud for a lot more merchandize, products and employees. Supply

and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandize as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, as housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mothers vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof. Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly

known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

Need a home makeover? Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw. □



Aruba is their Home Away From Home for this beautiful couple

Mrs Linda Luposello and Mr Christopher Berge who decided to get married here on the beautiful beaches of Aruba and also it is their 27th trip to Aruba and ATA honored them as Good Will Ambassador to the Island. Congratulations Mr & Mrs Berge Luposello Aruba is Honored to have you here!



Stimami Sterilisami Summer Sidewalk Sale will have incredible deals on a wide assortment of brand new and used hotel items!



Save the date this September 4th for the Stimami Sterilisami Summer Sidewalk Sale that will be held at Sun Plaza from 10 AM to 6 PM, where you will be able to find a wide variety of brand new and used hotel items from the Marriott Vacation Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Ritz Carlton, RIU Hotel & Resorts, Tara Eco Supplies, and Ben Kaufman at incredible prices.

Items include assorted garden furniture, mattresses, towels, linens,

plates, glasses, and much more! You will also have the opportunity to find your new best friend and give them a forever home through Luna Foundation, Nine Lives Foundation, and Sgt Pepper's Friends, who will be at the event with adoptable puppies and kittens.

The day will be filled with fun activities for children, which include facepaint, Bring it On Zumba lessons, balloon animal tutorials, and much more organized by the Mar-



riott activities team. 100% of the funds raised will be used for Stimami Sterilisami's national spay and neuter campaign, which has recently hit the incredible milestone of 30,000 sterilizations of cats and dogs.

"We are incredibly grateful and touched by the help, contributions, and volunteers of Bucuti & Tara, the Marriott, Ritz Carlton, RIU, Tara Eco Supplies, Ben Kaufman, Nine Lives Foundation, Luna Founda-

tion, Sgt Pepper's Friends, Sun Plaza, and Craft & Lola. Not only will every sale contribute to our mission to mitigate the suffering of local abandoned dogs and cats, but the public will also be able to find high-quality, durable hotel products at incredible bargain prices, while having a fun, family-filled day at the event. We invite the entire Aruban population to enjoy and support this wonderful cause," says Ewald Biemans, President of Stimami Sterilisami. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Johann and Karyn** who wrote:

"These are just two of the many United States Customs and Border Protection Pre-clearance officers and their families who cleaned some beach coves on the Alto Vista Coast tonight. Working hard! On, and off the clock." □



Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Maya Lieberman** who wrote:

"Aruba to me and my family is truly a home away from home. It's our tradition to visit the happy island from Toronto, Canada especially during the winter break when the temperature in Toronto is below 0 degrees Celsius."

Some family friends have a cottage up north from Toronto and our "cottage" is Aruba. The past 15 years we have been coming twice a year with and without our kids that are grown up now. Aruba isn't only happy island but it has a magical vibe. This kind of vibe is contagious and we shared it with our family and friends back home. Many friends and family took it seriously and managed to check it out and they often come to visit Aruba.

We just came back from two weeks of joy in Aruba in August and already have it booked for the upcoming winter. As a family we can't wait for the magic vibe and it's a beautiful feeling to look forward and celebrate time together on the One Happy Island." □

Can I have a ..., please?



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

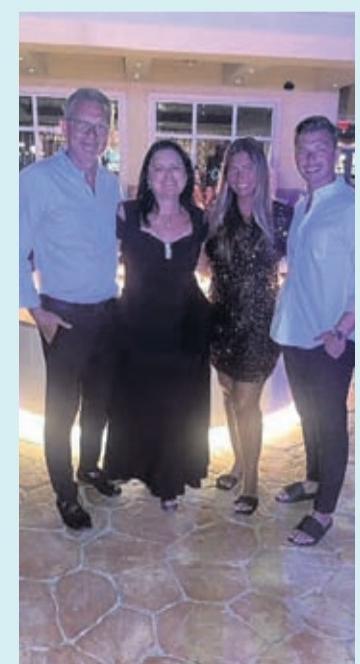
Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try apastechi, a Caribbean

pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball.

A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these sna-

cks are ridiculously addictive.

Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □



Mary Joan Foundation: “Right now we need a lot of help from the community”



ORANJESTAD – This week, Mary Joan Foundation announced that they are on the way to celebrating their 15th anniversary, and they are organizing various activities to celebrate the occasion. At the same time, the foundation talked about the challenges they are facing.

Mary Joan Foundation Aruba was founded in 2007 in memory of Mary Joan Geerman, a woman who for 8 years long battled against Breast Cancer. She guided others and was an inspiration for a lot people. She passed away at the age of 40 in 2002. The goal of the foundation is to provide guidance and help to women and men who have breast cancer, starting from the moment the cancer is detected. The help includes giving advice, organizing talks and activities, as well as providing the service of a social worker and psychologist for free.

Arabela Colina, president of the foundation, explains that they have begun their fundraising months, during which they are also trying to find a new location. They have been searching for a few months already, but they haven't found it easy to find a new location without paying rent; before, they only paid for services thanks to help from a local company. This is the main challenge the foundation is facing right now, and thus they are approaching the community to see if they can receive help for a new loca-

tion, with affordable rent price, and where they can have enough space to make wigs, take consultations, and other activities.

“Right now we need a lot of help from the community”, Colina emphasized.

She also said the foundation keeps working, and after two years of not being able to do any activities because of the pandemic, they are now back to fundraising. They have also grown and are bringing new programs. “We are needed in the community, I think that is obvious, not only for women but also for men.”

She says that this year, mental health has been an important aspect among their cases. Mental health is important for everyone, but particularly for their clients who confront it more often. “It's not easy when you find out about your health and you need to deal with it”, Colina says. She commented that they are very thankful to be able to help with mental health, particularly because in Aruba, sometimes patients need to go to their family doctor in order to be referred to a psychologist, and there is a long waiting period. But as a client of Mary Joan Foundation, there is a psychologist available within a week. Besides, every service they provide is free of charge.

“This is why we are asking the community for help. We work on prevention, but the fact that

we have clients with breast cancer, we cannot hide this reality. We give support to anyone who needs it, anyone who is suffering from breast cancer”, Colina mentioned.

Regarding their upcoming activities, she said that there will be a mass on the 25th of September to celebrate their 15 years of existence as a foundation. Secretary of the foundation, Stella Vrolijk said that the slogan they are using to open this campaign is “Helping support others is a privilege”. Vrolijk said that on the 2nd of October they will have a Bike Ride together with Shoco Legends Aruba B.C., who are busy helping organize the event together with Mary Joan Foundation.

Right now they have a pink ribbon campaign, selling pink ribbons for AfL 3 and these are already available for those who want to bring awareness regarding prevention of breast cancer, and Vrolijk commented that this is part of the fundraising efforts for the foundation. She also said that normally they collect funds in October, but this year they will begin in September.

As part of their activities this year, on the 30th of October they are hosting a 5km walk starting at 5pm in Eagle Beach. To register, click on www.maryjoanaruba.com/ □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Chores1 Gush forth 42 Heredity
5 Was bold unit

10 Wide-

spread damage

12 Select group

13 Concert setting

14 Photo holder

15 Fish feature

16 Young fellow

18 Bustle

19 Samples

21 Bullfight cries

22 Parts of clocks

24 Make fun of

25 Lovers of fine fare

29 Jamaican exports

30 Water whirls

32 Iris setting

33 Marital promise

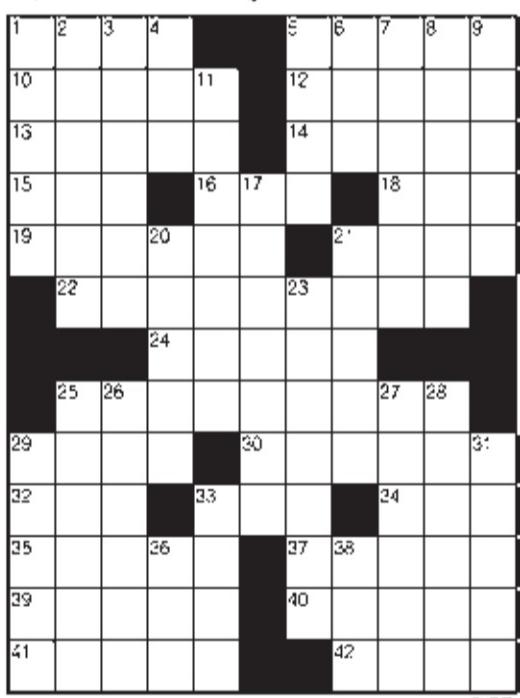
34 Pet perch

35 Orlando team

37 O'Neill work

39 Plain silly

40 External

**Yesterday's answer**

B-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

XN I Q D G D W G D A Y S Y U H X A

Q D W B D A , I Q D A R Q D A X S X D X

R W A L L Y U Y R Q D G D L Q D Z

R D A L . — R X P P G Y U D G H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A WAFFLE IS LIKE
A PANCAKE WITH A SYRUP TRAP. MITCH
HEEDBERG**Millennial Money: How to prepare your finances for a breakup**

A couple watches the sun set from a park Saturday, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated PressBy LAURA McMULLEN
of NerdWallet

Breaking up sucks — even if it's necessary and you're better off without them. Emotions loom large and life changes. Your to-do list fills up with loaded logistics, like figuring out who gets the cat or how the heck you'll afford to live alone. We don't know what to tell you about the cat, but we can speak to the financial aspect. After all, splitting can get sticky if you and your partner share money in some way or rely on each other financially.

MANAGE THOSE FEELINGS

If you're not experiencing financial abuse but feel that emotions are clouding your judgment, first acknowledge your inner critic. That voice "can be really discouraging, judgmental and shameful," Melkumian says.

help you determine next steps Dillon says. So log into your financial accounts, and note the following:

— RECURRING EXPENSES.

Distinguish those you share and those you or your partner pay solo, Dillon says.

— ASSETS. These are things you own that have monetary value, such as a house, car, stocks or bank accounts. Note which assets are in your name, which are in your partner's name and which (if any) are shared, says Sally Boyle, a Hanover, New Hampshire-based CFP and certified divorce financial analyst.
— NET WORTH. This is your assets minus liabilities, or money you owe, such as debts and loan balances.

Log this number, too, Boyle says. If you and your partner feel you can tackle this exercise together, do so. Schedule time for it, so you can feel mentally and emotionally prepared.

"Your first mediation is at the dining room table," says Boyle, who's also the founder of The Better Half divorce planning service. If you're up for it, address disparities in net worth, she says, and how to handle other tricky situations, like shared assets.

CONSULT PROFESSIONALS

Perhaps this discussion will help you determine next steps. That likelihood depends on several factors, including how tangled your finances are and the circumstances of your breakup.

Shared subscriptions are simpler to split than real estate, for example. And it's easier to collaborate with someone who calmly agrees to the breakup, rather than someone who clings to the relationship — or who you can't bear to look at.

Professionals may help straighten out finances and emotions. They can also fill knowledge gaps, where one partner understands much more about money than the other. Dillon sees these gaps often and says whoever knows less is at a disadvantage. □

Crypto firms say U.S. sanctions limit use of privacy software

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department is facing pushback from the cryptocurrency industry over sanctions imposed on a firm accused of helping to launder billions of dollars with some funds going to North Korean hackers.

Earlier this month, the Treasury Department imposed sanctions on the virtual currency mixing firm, Tornado Cash, which allegedly helped to launder more than \$7 billion worth of virtual currency since its creation in 2019.

Mixing services combine various digital assets, including potentially illegally and legitimately obtained funds, to keep the origins of the funds secret, including money that has been stolen. In the weeks after the sanctions were announced, crypto firms, lobbyists and at least one lawmaker have come to the firm's defense, saying the sanctions open the door to limiting Americans' usage of privacy software.

Coin Center, a nonprofit crypto advocacy firm, says Treasury's financial crimes enforcement arm "overstepped its legal authority" through its sanctions, which "potentially violates constitutional rights to due process and free speech." One cryptocurrency firm, Tether, has said it would not freeze its accounts tied to Tornado Cash and intends to keep them open. And Rep. Tom Emmer (R-Minn.), who has received at least \$50,000 in contributions from the executive director of the Blockchain Association this year, wrote to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen this week asking for the rationale for sanctioning Tornado Cash, saying the sanctions "impact not only our national security, but the right to privacy of every American citizen."

He told The Associated Press the sanctions punish Americans who use the firm's software for legitimate purposes. "My government has no business



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks about the economy during a news conference at the Treasury Department, July 28, 2022, in Washington.

sanctioning my ability to use a software that protects my anonymity, especially when I'm using it for legitimate purposes," he said. The defense of the firm comes as a Tornado Cash developer Alexey Pertsev was arrested by Dutch authorities in early August, days after U.S. sanctions were imposed, for allegedly facilitating money laundering. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says Tornado Cash's systems were used, among other things, to launder more than \$96 million drawn from the June Harmony blockchain

bridge theft and August Nomad crypto firm heist. A Treasury spokesperson said that the agency is focused on disrupting criminal behavior and will use its sanctions authorities to protect the U.S. financial system from illicit activity like cyber theft, money laundering, and weapons proliferation financing. Kristin Smith, executive director of the Blockchain Association, said the sanctions impact law abiding users of crypto mixing technology. "If you are paid in cryptocurrency, transactions on most blockchains are trans-

parent," she said, adding that mixers are used by those who don't want their transactions viewable on a public ledger. □

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA

How to reach us!

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@f@arubatoday



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DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Dakota Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:
San Nicolas Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Phone Directory Tel. 118

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Golf's season of discontent ends, but more to come

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Columnist

ATLANTA (AP)— Golf's season of discontent reaches its official stopping point this weekend at the Tour Championship.

Predicting where the sport goes from here is sort of like trying to hole a shot from the fairway.

The PGA Tour was woefully slow in reacting to the challenge from upstart, Saudi-backed LIV Golf. When it finally mustered a defense on the historic grounds of East Lake Golf Club, it seemed nothing more than a bunch of warmed-over ideas pulled straight from rebel tour's playbook.

Mainly, it comes down to this: The top PGA Tour players will commit to taking part in a series of tournaments with heightened importance beginning in 2023, and they'll all be cashing some enormous paychecks for their trouble. Sound familiar?

The leader of LIV Golf sure thought so. Greg Norman quickly jumped on social media to gloat over the PGA Tour largely copying what his tour is already doing.

"A day late and a dollar short," he wrote.

More initiatives were unveiled by PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, but any talk of growing the game or bringing in new fans is sure to take a



Cameron Smith, of Australia, chips to the 11th green during the first round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

backseat to the staggering amounts of money being thrown around by both tours. Golf has always been a game for the rich and powerful, and nearly everything that's happened over the past few months will only solidify that image for potential fans outside the top income bracket, those folks who aren't fretting over their yacht qualifying for a tax deduction. Monahan was asked point-blank if the PGA Tour should have taken the LIV threat more seriously.

He shrugged it off, seemingly welcoming the competition while insisting that his more established tour will win out in the end.

"There's competition everywhere," he said. "We're

competing against other leagues. We're competing for younger eyeballs. We're competing to grow internationally. We're competing to grow our sport relative to other sports. That's the nature of what we do." But Monahan sounded a bit naive when he talked of the PGA Tour relying on more than checks with lots of zeros to fend off a foe with a seemingly blank check from the Saudi royal family, endorsed to anyone who's good at swinging a club and willing to overlook the regime's egregious record on human rights. Monahan used words like "history" and "legacy" and "sense of purpose" to describe the non-monetary value of sticking with the

established tour. In reality, the only words that matter to most players: "Show me the money."

Even though a clear majority of the world's best still tee it up on the PGA Tour, the rival circuit has thrown around enough Saudi dough—with some signing bonuses reported at \$150 million or more—to land a surprisingly stout lineup of big-name players.

Dustin Johnson. Bryson DeChambeau. Brooks Koepka. Louis Oosthuizen. Not to mention, reports are swirling that British Open winner Cameron Smith is among those who will announce their defection as soon as the Tour Championship is over.

The biggest name landed

by LIV was Phil Mickelson, who just 15 months ago became the oldest major winner in golf history at the PGA Championship.

His reputation and his game have taken quite a beating since that triumphant moment at Kiawah Island, but Mickelson being at the forefront of LIV now makes him look like a bit of a visionary. Especially in light of the changes announced this week by the PGA Tour, which are largely a bucket list of the things Lefty wanted.

"As much as I probably don't want to give Phil any sort of credit at all, yeah, there were certain points that he was trying to make," said Rory McIlroy, who has become a leading voice for players on the PGA Tour. "Were some of these ideas, did they have merit? Of course they did. But he just didn't approach it the right way."

McIlroy talked of collaboration and being willing to work with other players to make the necessary changes. That was apparently the point of a players-only meeting last week that included Tiger Woods, who still wields enormous clout even though his future as a player is murky at best.

Of course, the PGA Tour has been around for 54 years. It's had plenty of time to address any serious concerns. □



Las Vegas Aces head coach Becky Hammon calls out instructions to her team during a WNBA basketball game against the Connecticut Sun, Sunday, July 17, 2022, in Uncasville, Conn.

Associated Press

Becky Hammon of Las Vegas Aces voted WNBA Coach of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Becky Hammon was named WNBA Coach of the Year on Friday after she led the Las Vegas Aces to the top of the league in her first year.

Hammon guided the Aces to a 26-10 record and the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. The Aces host the Seattle Storm in Game 1 of a best-of-five semifinal series on Sunday.

Hammon received 27 votes from a national panel of 56 sports media members, the WNBA said. Tani-

sha Wright of the Atlanta Dream was second (18 votes) and James Wade of the Chicago Sky was third (8).

The Aces averaged a WNBA-high 90.4 points, the third-highest scoring average in league history, and dramatically improved their 3-point shooting. Las Vegas made a league-record 23 3s last week in a playoff win over Phoenix. Hammon played 16 seasons in the WNBA, eight with the New York Liberty and eight with the San An-

tonio Silver Stars. She then spent eight seasons as an assistant coach with the San Antonio Spurs, who hired her in 2014 as the first full-time female assistant in league history.

Las Vegas owner Mark Davis, who also owns the NFL's Raiders, hired Hammon as coach this season, making her the first WNBA coach to earn \$1 million. The Aces, who lost in the 2020 WNBA Finals to Seattle, are aiming for their first title. □

Almost a third of NFL teams have changed quarterbacks in '22



Denver Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson (3) warms up prior to an NFL preseason football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, in Denver.

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — Among the

nine NFL teams changing quarterbacks in 2022 are three franchises that had been the models of stability at the position for a decade or more: the Seattle Seahawks, Atlanta Falcons and Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Seahawks and Falcons traded away their longtime starters and the Steelers lost Ben Roethlisberger to retirement. Russell Wilson led the Seahawks to the playoffs eight times in his decade in Seattle before his relationship with coach Pete Carroll soured and he was dealt to Denver in a blockbuster trade this spring.

Wilson becomes the sixth different starting quarterback in six years for the Broncos, who have churned through a dozen so-so QBs since Peyton Manning retired.

The Broncos gave up four high draft picks and three veterans for Wilson, including QB Drew Lock, who sawed with Geno Smith in an underwhelming camp competition that had Seahawks fans dreaming of next year's deep class of QBs featuring Ohio State's C.J. Stroud, Alabama's Bryce Young and Kentucky's Will Levis.

The Falcons are heading into the season without

Matt Ryan under center for the first time since 2007. What spelled the end of Ryan's long stay in Atlanta was the Falcons' dalliance with Deshaun Watson, who eventually agreed to a trade to Cleveland after the Browns guaranteed every penny of his new \$230 million contract.

The Falcons traded Ryan, who started 232 of 235 games for Atlanta, including Super Bowl 51, to the Indianapolis Colts — who parted with Carson Wentz after just one year — for a third-round pick.

Atlanta replaced Ryan with Marcus Mariota, who will be a starter for the first time in four years. Wentz ended up in Washington, the third NFL stop in three seasons for the second overall pick the Eagles in 2016.

Another ripple of the Watson trade, which netted the Texans five draft picks, including three first-rounders, was the departure of Baker Mayfield after a divisive four-year run in Cleveland that included the Browns' first playoff win since 2002. Mayfield was traded to Carolina, where he beat out Sam Darnold.

Watson won't be eligible to suit up for the Browns until Week 13 following an 11-game NFL suspension for violating the league's personal conduct policy after

he was accused of sexual misconduct by two dozen women while with the Texans.

"My whole life I just have been able to move forward and that's the plan," said Watson, who can return for the Browns' game in Houston on Dec. 4.

Wilson and Mayfield won't have to wait that long for their reunions.

Wilson returns to Seattle on Sept. 12 to cap an opening weekend that also features a revenge game with the Browns, behind stand-in Jacoby Brissett, at Carolina. The last time the Steelers entered a season without "Big Ben" at quarterback was 2003, although Roethlisberger's 2019 season ended after two weeks because of an elbow injury that required surgery.

Pittsburgh, loaded with premier pass-catchers, signed free agent Mitch Trubisky, who spent four turbulent years in Chicago before serving as Josh Allen's backup in Buffalo last year, and drafted Kenny Pickett out of the University of Pittsburgh.

Finally, the 49ers turned things over to Trey Lance this summer after he spent his rookie year on the bench behind Jimmy Garoppolo, who led San Francisco to the Super Bowl following the 2019 season. □

Associated Press



Curacao's Jaydion Louisa, center, is mobbed by his teammates on the way back to the dugout after driving in two runs with a base hit against Mexico during the fifth inning of a baseball game at the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pa., Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

Taiwan, Curacao look to win international bracket at LLWS

By JAKE STARR

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPT, Pa. (AP) — Taiwan will play Curacao on Saturday in a semifinal at the Little League World Series to determine which team will represent the international bracket in the championship against a U.S. team.

Here's a look at the matchup.

HOW THEY GOT HERE:

Taiwan has yet to lose a game so far in the tournament and is outscoring opponents 14-1. It opened with a 2-0 win over Italy and followed that with a 7-0 defeat of Panama.

In its third game, Taiwan topped Mexico 5-1 to advance.

Curacao had a much longer road to the international showdown. After beating Nicaragua 2-0 to open the tournament, Curacao fell 9-3 to Panama to drop out of the winner's bracket.

Since then, Curacao had to win four straight to make its way to the semifinal. It beat Italy 1-0, then topped Canada 4-2 and triumphed 7-2 over Nicaragua. On Thursday, Curacao advanced after defeating Mexico 2-1, thanks to a late rally.

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

Curacao's Davey-Jay Rijke has dominated both on the mound and in the field. Rijke struck out 15 batters in Curacao's 7-2 win over Nicaragua. He's ineligible to pitch this weekend due to pitch count rules. But he's been handy in the field at shortstop and scored six runs.

In that game, Deshawn Bonafasia picked up a big pinch-hit, two-run single. Bonafasia is one of the tallest players on the Curacao squad, standing at 6-foot-1. On the Taiwan side, Tseng Yi-Che leads the way. He had two hits in the last game, a win over Mexico. Liao Yuan-Shu picked up two RBIs. He is another stalwart to look for in Saturday's game.

FUN FACT:

While Taiwan has managed to outscore opponents by 13 runs throughout three games in the LLWS, Curacao has a positive run differential of just five over six games. Curacao also has two one-run victories and two two-run wins. If Saturday's game is tight, Curacao has more experience winning close ones. Curacao was the international champ in 2019 but lost in the tournament final. That season was the last time international teams played in the LLWS. □

Weekly SPECIALS



Flanksteak Brasil	Apples Gala 3lbs	Tangerine	Kellogg's Corn Pops Cereal 10oz
WAS \$13.09 \$10.85 Per KG	WAS \$5.48 \$3.99 Per Bag	WAS \$7.42 \$3.42 Per KG	WAS \$6.62 \$5.71 Each

Marucha/Top Blade Brasil	Pork Sausage(Beef/Pork)	Pineapples	Corn Yellow	Grapes Assorted Seedless
WAS \$12.57 \$10.85 Per KG	WAS \$9.09 \$7.42 Per KG	WAS \$3.99 \$2.85 Each	WAS \$1.42 \$0.91 Each	WAS \$9.14 \$5.71 Per KG

Peppers Green	Snow Peas	WH Organic Dark Red Kidney Beans Can 15oz	Pace Sauce Picante Mild 24oz	EE Creamy Peanut Butter 16oz
WAS \$4.85 \$3.42 Per KG	WAS \$12.57 \$8.57 Per KG	WAS \$2.56 \$1.71 Each	WAS \$5.02 \$4.28 Each	WAS \$3.14 \$2.28 Each

DIARY/FROZEN	HBC/CM	DELI/BAKERY
La Yogurt Assorted Flavors 52oz	Dove Soap Bar Regular White 2 Pack	Pizza Ham [Espino]
WAS \$3.82 \$3.25 Each	WAS \$3.42 \$2.85 Each	WAS \$3.86 \$1.08 100 GR
Olo Magnum Assorted Flavors 4x110ml	At Home Air Freshener Automatic 250ml	Mild Cheddar Cheese
WAS \$6.85 \$5.14 Each	WAS \$2.28 \$1.71 Each	WAS \$3.29 100 GR

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